

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S:LSEAGLEBURGER:ML
APPROVED BY S - MR. EAGLEBURGER
S/S - MR. ORTIZ
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
S, INR, GEN. SCOWCROFT (COURIER)
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S E C R E T STATE 016506 TOSEC 010138

NODIS
CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), OGEN

SUBJECT: PIKE COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EAGLEBURGER

1. I FEEL LIKE A FIRE HORSE WHO COMES OUT CHARGING WHEN THE BELL RINGS; THERE'S NOTHING I LIKE MORE THAN A GOOD FIGHT WITH OTIS PIKE (OTHERS WOULD SAY IT IS MORE LIKE A PUNCH DRUNK FIGHTER WHO COMES OUT STAGGERING WHEN THE BELL RINGS).

2. YOU CAN REST ASSURED THERE WILL BE A MINORITY REPORT. I HAVE TALKED TO MCCLORY'S STAFF MAN (HE, UNLIKE HIS BOSS, IS BRIGHT) WHO TELLS ME THEY WILL BEGIN DRAFTING ON A REPORT SOON. I HAVE OFFERED OUR HELP AND HE HAS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE MINORITY REPORT WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY, AT A MINIMUM, MCCLORY, TREEN, KASTEN, AND MILFORD. I WILL MAKE SURE THAT WHATEVER WE GIVE TO
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MCCLORY'S PEOPLE IS ALSO GIVEN DIRECTLY TO TREEN AND

KASTEN SO THAT WE HAVE MORE THAN ONE POINT OF INPUT INTO THE MINORITY REPORT.

3. I HAVE NOT YET TALKED TO LES ASPIN BUT INTEND TO DO SO TOMORROW. I HOLD OUT VERY LITTLE HOPE THAT WE CAN GET LES TO JOIN THE MINORITY REPORT BUT I MAY BE ABLE TO AT LEAST PERSUADE HIM TO WORK TO AMELIORATE SOME OF THE MORE OUTRAGEOUS CHARGES IN THE MAJORITY REPORT. I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT LES TOOK QUITE A BEATING FROM SOME OF HIS MORE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC COLLEAGUES FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE HE PLAYED IN THE PAST AND HE IS FEELING A BIT BRUISED BY THIS. CONSEQUENTLY HE IS MOST UNLIKELY TO BE PREPARED TO BREAK OPENLY WITH PIKE AGAIN.

4. AT THE MOMENT THE BATTLE LINES ARE DRAWN ON THE ISSUE OF WHETHER THE REPORT CAN CONTAIN CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT AGREED TO RELEASE. THAT IS A GOOD ISSUE AND ONE WHICH THE MINORITY CAN USE TO GOOD ADVANTAGE BOTH IN THE HOUSE DEBATE ON THE REPORT AND IN THE MINORITY REPORT ITSELF, CHARGING PIKE AND THE MAJORITY WITH A BREACH OF FAITH WITH THE EXECUTIVE. HOWEVER, TO THE EXTENT THE FIGHT CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON THIS ISSUE, LESS ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE SORTS OF PROBLEMS THAT WERE IDENTIFIED IN MY CABLE TO YOU OF YESTERDAY.

THUS OUR

SPECIFIC OBLIGATION HERE MUST BE TO SEE THAT THESE ISSUES ARE ALSO COVERED IN THE MINORITY REPORT. THAT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WE CAN EXPECT THE WHITE HOUSE TO HELP US OUT WITH AND WE WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO CARRY THE BALL OURSELVES. YOU NEED NOT WORRY, HOWEVER; I AM CONFIDENT WE CAN SUCCEED IN OUR OWN EFFORTS ON YOUR BEHALF.

5. AT THE MOMENT THE BATTLE IS LARGELY ONE OF CONGRESSMAN VERSUS CONGRESSMAN; THIS IS THE WAY WE SHOULD LEAVE IT FOR AS LONG AS WE CAN. IF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WEIGHS IN IN A PUBLIC FASHION AT THIS TIME, IT WILL TEND TO DIMINISH THE INTERNAL CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE AS THEY UNITE IN OPPOSITION TO THE EXECUTIVE. SO, FOR AS LONG AS WE CAN, WE SHOULD PLAY OUR GAME FROM BEHIND THE SCENES AND AVOID PUBLIC COMMENT UNTIL WE SEE THE OUTCOME OF THE INTERNAL CONGRES-

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SIONAL FIGHT. THIS WE WILL DO, WHILE WORKING ON A POSSIBLE PUBLIC DOCUMENT TO BE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT ONCE THE REPORT IS ISSUED (IT MAY BE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT NEED TO ISSUE ANYTHING IF ALL OR MOST OF OUR POINTS ARE MADE IN THE MINORITY REPORT).

6. SPECIFICALLY WE ARE NOW WORKING ON RESPONSES TO EACH OF THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST YOU WHICH WERE LISTED IN MY

CABLE OF YESTERDAY. HAL SAUNDERS IS OVERSEEING THIS EFFORT AND WILL HAVE COMPLETED WORK ON EACH OF THE ALLEGATIONS BY TOMORROW MORNING. WE WILL SEND EACH OF THESE TO YOU BY CABLE FOR YOUR REVIEW SOMETIME TOMORROW. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, GIVEN THE FACT THAT WE OUGHT TO BE GETTING OUR VIEWS TO THE RELEVANT CONGRESSMEN AS SOON

AS POSSIBLE, I INTEND TO DELIVER WHATEVER MATERIAL WE HAVE TO MCCLORY, TREEN, AND KASTEN TOMORROW, EMPHASIZING THAT WE MAY WANT TO REVISE AND EXPAND IT OVER THE WEEKEND. THUS ANY CHANGES YOU HAVE ON EACH OF THE RESPONSES TO ALLEGATIONS COULD BE MADE EARLY ON MONDAY. BUT SINCE THE MINORITY REPORT WILL BE WRITTEN BY A FEW OVERWORKED STAFFERS, I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE IN THEIR HANDS MATERIAL THAT THEY CAN DRAW FROM AS THEY PROCEED WITH THEIR WORK THIS WEEKEND.

7. WE WILL ALSO HAVE PREPARED BY THE TIME YOU RETURN A DRAFT OF THE POSSIBLE STATE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO THE PIKE COMMITTEE REPORT. SINCE THE PIKE COMMITTEE REPORT WILL NOT GO TO THE PRINTER FOR A FEW MORE DAYS, WE WILL HAVE SOME TIME TO WORK THIS ONE OVER WITH YOU AFTER YOUR RETURN.

8. REPORTS ON THE FACTS SURROUNDING THE DAVIES KILLERS AND CHARGES THAT YOU REFUSED HUMANITARIAN AID WILL BE CABLED TO YOU TOMORROW MORNING WASHINGTON TIME.

9. ONE FINAL NOTE: I HAVE NOW QUICKLY READ THROUGH THE FULL DRAFT OF THE COMMITTEE REPORT. I MAY BE TOO CLOSE TO THE SUBJECT FOR A RATIONAL JUDGMENT BUT MY FEELING IS THAT THE REPORT -- WHILE IT WILL GENERATE HEADLINES FOR A DAY OR TWO -- WILL BE SEEN BY MOST AS A PATHETIC EFFORT OF
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SOPHOMORIC QUALITY. IT IS NOT A GOOD JOB, EVEN FROM PIKE'S POINT OF VIEW; IT LACKS SUBSTANCE, BALANCE AND FOCUS. IN ADDITION IT IS ALMOST TOTALLY LACKING IN SENSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

10. LATE ITEM: MCCLORY'S STAFFER HAS JUST CALLED TO TELL ME THAT OTIS PIKE HAS CALLED MCCLORY AND REQUESTED THAT THEY GET TOGETHER TOMORROW MORNING TO "SEE HOW WE CAN TONE DOWN THOSE PORTIONS OF THE REPORT PERTAINING TO KISSINGER." THE STAFFER HAS ASKED THAT WE HAVE IN HIS HANDS BY FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING MATERIAL THAT MCCLORY CAN USE IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH PIKE. CONSEQUENTLY I WILL BE GIVING MCCLORY EVERYTHING WE CAN COME UP WITH ON THOSE POINTS RELATING TO YOU; WE MAY BE AT LEAST PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL

THIS WAY IN REDUCING THE LEVEL OF ATTACK. MY ONLY PROBLEM
IS THAT, ONCE AGAIN, MCCLORY IS HARDLY THE MOST PRECISE
INSTRUMENT TO BE USING FOR THIS. ROBINSON

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